

## **CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**Monday, June 3, 2013**

**The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room C**

**Members present:** Ira Berkowitz, Brad Bernstein, Mimi Deem, Laurel Harrington, Eric Schneider, and Mark Stapleton.

**Absent:** Marguerite Garrick, Darryl Higuchi, Andrea Maddox-Dallas and Melanie Tamsky

*Also Present:* Patty DeForrest and Denise Ucinski.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the April meeting were approved as amended and minutes from the May meeting were approved as written.

### **Addresses from the Audience:**

Clayton residents, Rosemary Hardy, Julie Murphy and Kathryn Love, addressed the Commission. Each spoke of the need for the City to seriously consider the acquisition of the land that is currently for sale by the Clayton School District. They spoke to the need for park land in their neighborhood and the current usage by the residents. They asked that the Commission express their support of this initiative to the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Bernstein suggested that it would appropriate for Ms. DeForrest to provide information to the Commission at their July meeting about existing park land as well as what is contained as recommendations in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan about the need for park land. The Commission agreed that this would help the Commission have an educated discussion of the request by the neighbors. It was also suggested that the update should include other priority projects that have not been completed from the Master Plan. Ms. DeForrest said that she would prepare the report as requested.

### **Director's Report**

**Special Events:** There was a good turnout at the Taste of Clayton; better than last year despite the cool temperatures. The first Musical Nights will be held on Sunday, June 23. The CSP Swim Meet will be held the weekend of June 21. CSP is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year. Shaw Park Aquatic Center pass holders will be able to use the Maplewood pool or The Center of Clayton pool free of charge. Summer camps began on June 3. The SummerQuest program begins the week of June 10 and runs for six weeks.

Tennis programs are going well, Frontenac Tennis Club is improving things from an operational standpoint; they are more visible, and running all programs/camps with the exception of CHS camps. Spring sports leagues are wrapping up their season although it did have to be extended due to the excessive rains. Summer leagues will continue to run.

The opening of the Shaw Park Aquatic Center has been slow due to the cool weather. Pool pass sales are slower than normal; however, staff has adapted staffing levels to offset the slower start to the season.

**Budget:** The City is preparing the final FY2014 budget based on the City Managers budget recommendations and reduction in staff. Reductions in the Parks & Recreation Budget included:

- 1) A reduction in the funding level for The Center of Clayton
- 2) A Parks Maintenance Supervisor will be shared with Public Works
- 3) Two additional staff have been eliminated – Assistant Athletics and Facilities Supervisor and Parks Laborer

While it is difficult to handle reductions, the department is working to streamline operations, utilize less labor intensive park maintenance practices and will explore outsourcing when it makes sense

(i.e. Tennis Center Management). The goal for all reductions is to achieve a balanced budget by the end of FY2015.

**Anderson Park:** The opening of the Dog Park has been delayed due to the weather. Ms. DeForrest mentioned that the section of the park that will not be used for the dog park has been returned to its natural state. Nearly 120 memberships have been sold. All members have been notified about the delay in opening the park. Most of the work that needs to be completed is contractual. The funds raised through the CCF will cover all costs associated with the construction of the dog park which includes fencing, benches, water fountains, labor and landscaping. A soft opening will be held later in the summer. Further, work is being completed in order to mitigate some of the water.

**James Surls Art Piece:** The *Molecular Bloom with Single Flower* by James Surls will be installed on Friday, August 30. The sculpture comes in two pieces, and weighs a little over three thousand pounds. There will be brown bag lunch event with Mr. Surls on Thursday August 29 at The Center of Clayton. Mr. Surls will be at all of the art installation events as called for in his contract.

**Shaw Park:** There are many things going on in the park. It would have been ideal if the Shaw Park Recreational Trail project could have started in February and been completed by now. The current time line is not what we would have selected but based on the weather conditions the project is taking longer to complete. It is now scheduled to be completed by mid-July at the latest. Ms. DeForrest reported that the loss of green space in Shaw Park was approximately one acre or nearly a two percent increase in previous pace. The trail will be primarily eight feet wide, but some sections will be ten feet wide to allow for work vehicles.

Asphalt was chosen as the material for the trail because it is easier on people's joints, smooth, does not lead to tripping hazards like sidewalks and is the preferred surface for parks. The asphalt is very black now but will become grayish as it is beached out in the sun. The Moneta Garden and outdoor Fitness Center will be finished and opened by the time the trail is open as they are considered to be part of the trail project.

The Enterprise Holdings Pavilion construction will begin the week of June 10 as long as all of the permits are in place.

The fence at the tennis center continues to be an outstanding issue; the material used for the fence is not what was listed in the project specs and is not the strength it is supposed to be. Ms. DeForrest is working to resolve this with the contractor.

The final piece of work that needs to be completed in Shaw Park is the renovation of fields three and four. Currently there is poor drainage on these fields. An irrigation system will help this and is part of the proposed project. Bond funds are already available for the project; therefore it will be ideal to start the project this fall. Ms. DeForrest will send this recommendation to the City Manager.

**Hanley Park:** The contractors started installing the windows at Hanley House. All of the exterior work has been completed with the exception of the doors. Mold remediation, cleaning the property and then putting everything back in place at the house are the necessary steps that have to take place prior to the start of camps on July 8. In addition, there is quite a bit of landscaping work that needs to be done. The plan is to re-open for public tours on Saturday, July 13.

**Ice Rink Project** – Jacobs presented to the BOA at the end of May and did not get much feedback. They did ask if the rink had to have a full cover. Some were surprised by the cost of the cover and Mayor Sanger expressed his concern about the overall cost.

**Old Business / New Business:**

Mr. Bernstein stated that he does not like the fact that The Center closes at 9:00 pm during the summer because college students are home from school. Ms. DeForrest said any change to this was not proposed for this summer. Summer hours are in place from Memorial Day weekend through August 11, which is less time than what was originally proposed when the change was implemented and, at this time, there is no plan to change these hours.

Mr. Berkowitz asked who was in charge of the Wydown median area because it is full of pot holes. Ms. DeForrest said the Public Works department takes care of work on Wydown Blvd. She will find out when it slated to be repaved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski